Abernathy Says Police, FBI Helped Ray Escape

MEMPHIS (UPI) — The FBI and local police helped "conspirators" whisk James Earl Ray from Memphis after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was gunned down in 1968, the successor to the late Civil Rights leader said yesterday.

In an interview with The Commercial-Appeal, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, who was with King when he died, said he is prepared to testify about the accusations Monday when he goes before a House committee investigating King's assassination in the first public hearing by the secretive panel.

Ray wants to be tried again for the King slaying, which he pleaded guilty to and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. The convicted killer is also scheduled to testify before the committee in Washington.